

Poster Presentation

**THE GREAT LAKES FISHERIES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE: PROVIDING
STAKEHOLDERS WITH KNOWLEDGE TO EFFECTIVELY INTERACT WITH FISHERIES
MANAGERS**

Recreational fishing opportunities comprise an important social and economic component of Great Lakes shoreline communities. Stakeholders have strong interests in how Great Lakes fisheries are researched and managed by various agencies, but often lack information to promote effective communication and decision-making. Recognizing these concerns, the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, the National Sea Grant College Program, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Departments of Commerce have partnered to fund and develop the Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute. The Institute will address communication needs for the diverse recreational, charter, and commercial interests in Great Lakes fisheries, and is intended to provide in-depth training to the next generation of leaders (new leaders to their fisheries-related organizations or those likely to become leaders within the next few years). The Institute will operate on a regional, lake, and state level and will provide emerging citizen fishery leaders the knowledge and skills needed to effectively interact with Great Lakes fisheries managers for the benefit of the fishery. Moreover, the Institute intends to develop a diverse, well-informed constituency for the Great Lakes that bases its decisions and actions on science-based information. Institute sessions began in early summer 2003.

Dolan*, C.R., Illinois Natural History Survey/Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant/IDNR-Technical Support Section, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL, USA 62702; 217-557-1406; FAX 217-785-2438; cdolan@dnrmail.state.il.us

Epifanio, J.M., Illinois Natural History Survey, Center for Aquatic Ecology, 607 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL, USA 61820; 217-244-5059; FAX 217-333-6294; epifanio@inhs.uiuc.edu